



Westford Fire Department

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Fire Prevention Office

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Establishments with Commercial Cooking Equipment Westford Fire Prevention Office New Regulations concerning Commercial Cooking Equipment

The Board of Fire Prevention Regulations has established minimum fire safety requirements (preventive and operative) relating to the design, installation, operation, inspection, cleaning and maintenance of all Public and Private Commercial Cooking Equipment and Operations. Public and Private establishments which have Commercial Cooking Equipment, including but not limited to, kitchen exhaust hoods shall comply with the new regulation this ensuing year.

On behalf of Chief Rochon, and the Westford Fire Prevention Office we are notifying you of these recent changes so you may prepare to comply with the new regulation 527 CMR 11.00. Below is a summary of the new regulation followed by common questions and answers.

1. All Public and Private Establishments will have to comply with the new Commercial Cooking Operations regulation effective January 1, 2010 for inspection and grease buildup.
2. Persons engaged in cleaning or inspecting of Commercial Cooking Operations in the Commonwealth, must possess a valid Certificate of Competency issued by the State Fire Marshal.
3. Commercial Cooking equipment, including kitchen exhaust hoods and entire exhaust systems, shall be inspected for grease buildup and shall be cleaned in accordance with type and volume of cooking following 527 CMR 11.00 and the National Fire Protection Association Standard 96-2008. Such services shall be completed by a properly trained, qualified and certified person who must possess a valid Certificate of Competency issued by the State Fire Marshal.
4. Inspection and maintenance requirements of the Fire-Extinguishing system shall be conducted by a person certified and must possess a valid Certificate of Competency issued by the State Fire Marshal.
5. Owner shall maintain records of inspection and cleaning services on the premises and make them available upon request of the head of the fire department or their designee.

Listed below are common questions regarding the new regulation.

Our Church has commercial cooking equipment including a kitchen exhaust system, are we exempt from this regulation?

No, any establishment including places of worship, private or public clubs with commercial cooking equipment including kitchen exhaust systems will be required to comply with the new regulation.

How often must our commercial cooking equipment be inspected and cleaned?

A certified person shall inspect for grease buildup according to the type and volume of cooking following 527 CMR 11.00 and the National Fire Protection Association Standard 96-2008.

Can I as owner or operator of the Commercial Cooking Operation or an employee inspect and conduct cleaning operations?

Only if the owner, operator or employee holds a “restricted” Certificate of Competency issued by the Marshal may conduct cleaning operations. A “restricted” Certificate does not allow such owner, operator, or employee to conduct such cleaning services for any other commercial kitchen operation.

When should we have our commercial cooking equipment inspected?

We would recommend as soon as possible but no later than your regular scheduled service. Remember, this must be done by a certified person who possesses a valid Certificate of Competency issued by the State Fire Marshal.

What if I fail to have the commercial cooking equipment and exhaust hood inspected and cleaned?

Should the fire department determine at any time that the exhaust system of such operation has not been inspected in accordance with the new regulations for grease buildup, then the fire department shall issue an order to cease such operation pending inspection by a certified person who possesses a valid Certificate of Competency issued by the State Fire Marshal.

Will the Westford Fire Department certify our commercial cooking equipment?

No. The Westford Fire Department will however, verify that your commercial cooking equipment has been inspected and cleaned by a certified person who possesses a valid Certificate of Competency issued by the State Fire Marshal.

The Westford Fire Department recommends you check with your current contractor if they can provide you with the necessary services as required by the new regulation 527 CMR 11.00, remembering that they must be Certified by the State Fire Marshal. Please do not call the Westford Fire Department asking for referrals as we are not allowed by law to recommend any particular vendor. Should you have any other related questions concerning the regulation you may call the Westford Fire Prevention Office Monday through Friday for assistance.

Sincerely,
Chief Richard Rochon
Chief of the Department

Lieutenant Donald R. Parsons
Fire Prevention Officer